

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application, with claims 7-14 being withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6 and 10-12 are amended. No new matter is added. Support for the amended claims is found in Figs. 1-5, showing the mounting on each end face.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Jimenez at the interview held November 20, 2006, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

Claims 1-4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Miyahara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,902,653); and claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miyahara in view of Official Notice. In light of the amended independent claim 1, these rejections are traversed.

35 U.S.C. §102(b)

As discussed in the interview, Miyahara does not teach or suggest an oiling roller assembly, comprising: an oiling roller; a roller shaft about which the oiling roller rotates; and at least one cap unit disposed on an end face of the roller shaft, as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Miyahara is alleged to disclose an oiling roller assembly, comprising at least one cap unit disposed on "an end" of the roller shaft. However, Miyahara merely teaches an oil holding cylinder attached by means of an annular fitting 3 to a driving shaft 2 (column 3, lines 49-51; with reference to Fig. 1). Further, Fig. 1 of Miyahara merely shows an oil holding cylinder attached by means of an annular fitting 3 that is clearly not on the end face of the shaft, as recited in independent claim 1. Accordingly, Miyahara fails to teach or suggest at least one cap unit disposed on an end face of the roller shaft.

As Miyahara fails to teach or suggest each and every claim feature, independent claim 1, and its dependent claims, are patentable over the applied reference. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action alleges that claim 5 is unpatentable over Miyahara in view of Official Notice. While Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Official Notice taken as summarized in the Office Action, this rejection is considered moot in view of the above deficiencies of Miyahara that are not remedied by any aspect of the alleged Official Notice. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

As Miyahara, alone or in combination with Official Notice, fails to teach or suggest each and every claim feature, independent claim 1, and its dependent claims, are patentable over the applied references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejoinder

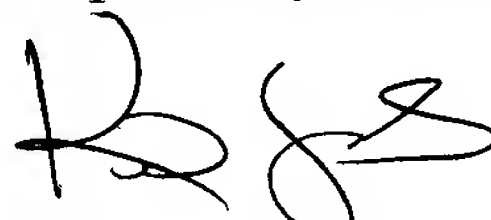
In response to a Restriction Requirement, claims 7-14 were withdrawn. However, in light of these withdrawn claims depending from or otherwise including all of the features of claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests that upon allowance of claim 1, claims 7-14 should be rejoined and similarly allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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